

Attorney Docket No. 06371 USA
Preliminary Amendment Dated October 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, the specification is amended. No new matter is added.

This Amendment is submitted to more accurately represent Applicant's invention by deleting a duplicate page of the specification and substituting the correct page in its place. In the original specification as submitted to the Examiner, a duplicate copy of page 2 was inadvertently included as the third page of the specification instead of the actual intended page 3. It is clear from the sentence fragments at the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 4 that the text substituted in this Amendment as page 3 was originally intended to be the third page of the specification and was mistakenly left out. A copy of the actual intended page 3, which was inadvertently omitted, is attached hereto in the Appendix.

The substitution of page 3 for the duplicate page 2 does not add new matter to the specification. The actual intended page 3 contains text that is part of the Background section of the specification. Specifically, page 3 discusses common approaches to dealing with liquid accumulating near or on the wall of the column, and cites four examples of relevant patents. This information focuses on explaining the history of previous work and research in the field and does not add to or limit the scope of the invention of this application. Therefore, this Amendment adds no new matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in good form for initial examination on the merits. Accordingly, prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.¹

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOV, LTD.

By


James J. Kozuch

Registration No. 39,733

Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein

Cohen & Pokotilov

Seven Penn Center - 11th Floor

1635 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2212

(215) 567-2010

Attorneys for Applicants

Please charge or credit our
Account No. 03-0075 as necessary
to effect entry and/or ensure
consideration of this submission.

¹ An Associate Power of Attorney granting the undersigned authorization to prosecute this application was filed on or about September 22, 2004.